AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN – General Requirements
State: Massachusetts
Report Period Under Review: October 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005 (2005A)

Requirement	Rating Factor	Finding	Task	Estimated/ Completed Date	State's Comments/Notes ACF's Sign-off Notes
Foster Care Population	2				
Include all children who are in the placement, care, or supervision responsibility of the title IV-B/E agency that are on "trial home visits" (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3, AFCARS Reporting Population).		The State does not include children that are in the agency's responsibility for care and placement, but who have been returned home.	1) Modify the program code/system to include the reporting of children returned home who are still in the agency's responsibility for care and placement. 1a) Continue to report the child if, after a specified period of time, the judge orders another specified period of time for the child to remain home and retains the agency's placement, care or supervision. 1b) For children returned home for a non-specified period of time, the State must consider the child discharged from care after six months. 1c) If the child re-enters care under a new court order, then this would be a new removal episode. If there is a "motion to continue the existing court order," then this would continue the existing removal episode.		

Includes youth over the age of 18 if a payment is being made on behalf of the child (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1, AFCARS).		The State includes youth over the age of 19. The State may also be including youth over 18 that are receiving services but for whom a title IV-E payment is not being made for their placement.	1) Modify the program code to exclude all youth over the age of 19 and to exclude those over 18 if there is no title IV-E payments. 2) Ensure that a discharge date and reason are entered for these youth.	